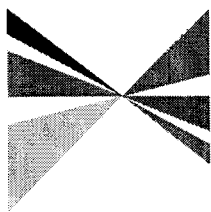


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION OF
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Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission: Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

559 05.09.06

MEETING OF THE

OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, January 09, 2007

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SCAG Offices

818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor

Conference Room Riverside A

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.236.1800

Teleconferencing Available:

Please RSVP with Jill Eggerman

24 hours in advance.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Jill Eggerman at 213.236.1919 or eggerman@scag.ca.gov

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

Open Space Working Group

AGENDA

PAGE #

TIME

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Liz Chattin,
Chair

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the group, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Minutes of November 14, 2006
Attachment

01

5.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Compass 2% Growth Vision and Open Space

Mr. Butala will discuss the work that
The Compass 2% Growth Vision program
is doing with regard to open space in the
SCAG region.

Mark
Butala,
SCAG Staff

04

15 minutes

5.2 Consultant Update Attachment

The Group will receive a report on
The Community Open Space Workshop.

Jean
Carr,
Jones and Stokes

05

10 minutes

Open Space Working Group

AGENDA

		PAGE #	TIME
5.3	<u>Finance Incentives Attachment</u> The continued discussion from the November meeting on a variety of possible open space financial mechanisms.	Craig Hoshijima, 09	10 minutes
5.4	<u>Implementation Discussion</u> A representative from The Sohagi Law Group will continue the discussion from the November meeting about possible implementation mechanisms for the Open Space Program.	Margaret Sohagi Helene Smookler The Sohagi Law Group 12	10 minutes
6.0	<u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u>		
7.0	<u>STAFF REPORT</u> Staff will report on upcoming schedule and future topics		
8.0	<u>FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS</u> Any Committee members or staff desiring to place items on a future agenda may make such request. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes.		
9.0	<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>		
10.0	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The next meeting of the Open Space Working is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday March 13, 2007 at the SCAG offices.		

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
of the
OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP**

**November 14, 2006
Minutes**

**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE
OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL
MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICES**

The Open Space Working Group held its meeting at SCAG Offices, Downtown, Los Angeles, CA.
The meeting was called to order by Liz Chattin, Ventura County.

Present

Bae, Changmii	L.A. County Parks & Recreation
Chattin, Liz	County of Ventura
Crowe, Richard	BLM
Dake, Glen	Glen Dake Landscape Architect
Harlan, Jeffrey	Michael Brandman Associates
McCormick, Kally	Caltrans
Reed, Wendy	AV Conservancy
Schmidt, Karen	SOAR/AFA
Silver, Dan	Endangered Habitats League
Smith, Jim	L.A. County Parks & Recreation

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
of the
OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP**

**November 14, 2006
Minutes**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

Liz Chattin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made by those present.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were received.

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the September 12, 2006 meeting were approved.

5.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Healthy Parks, Schools and Communities

Robert Garcia discussed the work that CLIPi had done, and that the City Project L.A. is continuing to do in the area of park access and public health, particularly focusing on the needs of disadvantaged minority youth.

5.2 Consultant Update

Jean Carr, Jones and Stokes presented a report on the Community Open Space Workshop, products for the natural lands open space component, and future plans for the community open space component.

5.3 Finance Incentives

Craig Hoshijima, Public Financial Management, presented a variety of possible open space financial mechanisms. Discussion to be continued at January meeting.

5.4 Implementation Discussion

Helene Smookler, Fox and Sohagi, discussed possible implementation mechanisms for the Open Space Program. Discussion to be continued at January meeting.

6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No report

7.0 STAFF REPORT

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
of the
OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP**

**November 14, 2006
Minutes**

8.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The group agreed to further discuss financial and implementation mechanisms at the January 9th meeting.

9.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

MEMO

DATE: January 09, 2007

TO: Open Space Working Group

FROM: Jill Eggerman, Assistant Regional Planner, 213.236.1919, eggerman@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Open Space component of SCAG's Compass 2% Growth Vision

SUMMARY:

SCAG staff will provide a discussion on the role of open space in the Compass 2% Growth Vision.

BACKGROUND:

With over 18 million residents, the Southern California region is the second largest metropolis in the nation. Blessed with one of the world's most dynamic economies, the region is also one of the most congested in the country, suffers some of its worst air pollution and is facing a housing crisis. By the year 2030, another five million residents will be added, creating more pressure on already congested roadways and scarce housing and threatening advancements the region has made in air quality.

We need a blueprint for regional growth to address these challenges and provide for livability, mobility, prosperity - sustainably for the future. Compass Blueprint represents a plan that, with only modest changes to development patterns, can point the region toward maintained and improved quality of life. The Compass Blueprint process has included a technical analysis of growth options, and also the more subjective, values-based considerations that emerged from continued public participation. With a proactive approach to planning and managing growth we will collectively create the types of communities where all of us want to live, work and play.

Compass Blueprint is a new way to look at how we grow. The Compass Blueprint Growth Vision is a response, supported by a regional consensus, to the land use and transportation challenges facing Southern California now and in the coming years.

The Growth Vision is driven by four key principles:

- Mobility – Getting where we want to go
- Livability – Creating positive communities
- Prosperity – Long-term health for the region
- Sustainability – Preserving natural surroundings

More information is available on SCAG's website at <http://www.compassblueprint.org/>

MEMO

DATE: January 09, 2007

TO: Open Space Working Group

FROM: Jill Eggerman, Assistant Regional Planner, 213.236.1919, eggerman@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Community Open Space Workshop

Jean Carr, of Jones and Stokes will provide a discussion on the Community Open Space Workshop that occurred at SCAG on November 6, 2006. The summary of comments and recommendations from the workshop participants is attached.

Summary of Comments and Recommendations from the 11-06-06 Community Open Space Workshop

Key Community Open Space Issues
Accessibility as well as distribution and amount of community open space needs to be considered.
Many areas have open space requirements and standards but are not applying them (or applying them consistently) to individual projects.
Existing policies/standards don't provide much guidance on open space within mixed-use development; a planning tool for finding open space in urban cores also is needed.
Locally and regionally, it's difficult to get proposed open space projects on maps. Getting the projects on maps is important to getting them funded and to coordinating planning efforts locally and regionally.
Need to prevent bad projects and bad ideas for open space from being approved.
Development and related fees are not adequate to address operations and maintenance as well as acquisition of community open space; fees need to be increased. Also need to develop a local funding method for areas that don't have impact fees/
Bonds funds only cover capital costs; need funding source for operations and maintenance.
Recommended Focus for SCAG Program
Define role for cities in improving access to open space
Identify ways to make better use of existing access/linkages to open space
Address access issues
Don't lose track of habitat values when planning for community open space, especially when focusing on linkages
Focus on protecting habitat linkages
Need to make clear that urban forestry, linkage protection is not just a matter of planting native species
Include transportation strategies to get people to the open space
Promote connector trails, open space within walking distance
Develop measurable standards, like levels of service, for community open space and identify how the standards can be met.
Specify goals and requirements, standards for urban agriculture, perhaps a percentage goal for amount of food produced in the region/
Address urban-wildland interface
Find ways to make better use of existing linkages to open space
Develop methodology for determining open space needs, funding, sustainable design

Possible Implementation Strategies
Link funding and approval for transportation projects to open space
Make use of existing tools, data source, e.g., GreenVision
RTP should include financial incentives/disincentives for conserving open space; attach requirements and the incentives/disincentives to regional projects
Does SCAG have the power to establish and enforce such incentives or requirements? Would legislation be needed to provide that power?
What incentives/disincentives can SCAG provide if it has no land use authority?
SCAG should require that the plans developed under its 2% Strategy grant program include an open space element (provide for open space)
SCAG should write the 2007 RTP EIR with enforceable terms (so lack of compliance can be litigated)
Pull together all reasons/factors why the region is short on open space
Develop a credible picture of open space needs, estimated costs.
Tie community open space planning and implementation to infrastructure planning and implementation
Use existing [public lands in urban and outlying areas for community open space
Improve bike trails, agency coordination
Potential Roles for SCAG
SCAG's best role is to provide the holistic view
SCAG could provide technical assistance in planning and mapping community open space projects, especially for lower income jurisdictions.
Provide technical assistance on planning.
Keep the databases current.
Establish ongoing electronic forum so communications and joint planning can continue
Provide demographic and socioeconomic information for use in local and regional needs assessments
SCAG staff should offer recommendations on what would work; suggest a framework for the program.
Provide financial incentives, help secure funding
Review regional and large project open space plans
Stakeholder Involvement
Orange County provides good model of how stakeholders, non-profits, and government can work together to develop and implement an open space program. But there's too big of a gap between SCAG and grassroot stakeholders.
Gather more of the groups working on issue together and help them work more effectively together
Ask the groups represented at the workshop and on the working group to provide contact information for others who should be involved

Other
Provide information on how much money has been spent/allocated on open space projects and conservation in region – will demonstrate level of commitment
Use information about status of open space to draw attention to differences and problems within parts of the region
Provide more information on how 2% Strategy can be used to provide more community open space
2005 Existing Land Use data needs to be revised to identify State Parks, National Forest, National Parks, etc. as protected open space (now part of undifferentiated vacant category)

MEMO

DATE: January 09, 2007

TO: Open Space Working Group

FROM: Jill Eggerman, Assistant Regional Planner, 213.236.1919, eggerman@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Open Space Financing

At the November 14th, 2006 Open Space Working Group meeting, the finance consultant for SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan presented on typical mechanisms for large scale open space preservation and acquisition. Today's discussion will be a continuation and an expansion of the November 14th presentation.

Funding Sources for Open Space

Presentation to the Open Space Working Group

November 14, 2006

Open Space Funding in California

- **Funding for open space and park acquisition has historically come from the State and county open space districts.**
- **California law places unique restrictions on the implementation of new taxes or assessments for open space.**
- **State and federal grants are available, but only to a limited extent.**
- **New approaches are being tried that may provide an alternative to historic funding methods.**

| 2

Common Funding Sources for Open Space and Parks in California

- **Most new funding sources for open space require at least majority voter approval or State legislative action.**
 - **Benefit assessment district**
 - **Municipal services district**
 - **Allocation of existing property taxes**
 - **State general obligation bonds**
- **City and county general obligation bonds are more widely used elsewhere in the nation.**

| 3

Alternative Approaches May Create New or Help Leverage Existing Funding Sources

- **Alternative approaches for open space funding include:**
 - **conservation easements**
 - **lottery funds**
 - **conservation and mitigation banking**
- **Changes to existing approaches may invigorate their use.**
 - **Infrastructure financing district**
 - **Integrated financing district**

| 4

MEMO

DATE: January 09, 2007

TO: Open Space Working Group

FROM: Jill Eggerman, Assistant Regional Planner, (213) 236-1919, eggerman@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Open Space Implementation Incentives

SUMMARY:

SCAG staff has researched and compiled various mechanisms for pursuing environmental mitigation, generally, and protecting open space, specifically, based on existing regional programs and authorities. This memo reviews existing regional authorities and planning mandates that potentially can be used to implement goals of the open space chapter. A second memo describes financial tools and mechanisms.

The open space and habitat chapter is advisory and does not regulate the land use decisions of SCAG's member agencies. It can provide a toolkit and foundation for guiding local agencies in their long range planning and resource protection. The primary utility of the chapter is in providing data, best practices, and other information that facilitate the local planning process including the preparation of General Plans, and potentially, Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). In this sense, the RCP Open Space Chapter potentially reduces the effort and cost associated with implementation activities at the sub-regional and local level.

POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS (PLANNING AND REGULATORY)

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Mitigation: Mitigation measures included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for SCAG's RTP/RCP are essentially equivalent to regional policies. SCAG can develop standardized mitigation measures that are applicable at the project scale, and can be adopted by lead agencies at their discretion in order to reduce effort and cost.

Environmental Setting/Intergovernmental Review (IGR): CEQA requires that an EIR discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed project and regional plans, including but not limited to regional transportation plans, regional housing allocation plans and HCP/NCCPs (*CEQA Guidelines* 15125(d)). SCAG performs Intergovernmental Review of local agency projects, for which an EIR is prepared, for consistency with the RTP/RCP. CEQA only requires that inconsistencies be discussed as part of the environmental setting. However, most Lead Agencies take the analysis a step further and find a plan inconsistency to be a significant impact. In those cases, the inconsistency must be mitigated (i.e., conformance with the plan) or the lead agency must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC).

Intergovernmental Review (Federal)

Federal Executive Order 12372: allows that federal agencies shall provide opportunities for consultation by state and local elected officials, where those local governments would provide the non-federal funds for, or that would be directly affected by, proposed federal financial assistance or direct federal development. <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>

MEMO

RTP: SCAG should consider whether there is a means to tie to the open space and habitat policies to the RTP/RTIP process. SANDAG, through TransNet, has established a protocol to review transportation project impacts on biological resources and provides mitigation funding.

Clean Water Act Section 208: Section 208 requires regions to prepare plans for waste treatment management. SCAG is the designated agency for this type of planning in Southern California. However, a plan has not been updated since 1981, due primarily to lack of funding. The 208 process, potentially, creates an opportunity for addressing open space issues, assuming there is a nexus between potential growth and development and impacts on watersheds and water quality. Other regions preparing these plans recently have, in fact, used authority under section 208 to define and enforce regional development preferences.

Clean Water Act Section 404: In 1993, several agencies, including Caltrans, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding committing them to integrate NEPA and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act into transportation planning, with the intent of avoiding impact on water and on sensitive species. The MOU provides that Caltrans will make available data, technical assistance to MPOs. The 404 process has been helpful in avoiding or mitigating environmental impacts in various large scale planning processes in California.

Housing Element: State housing law requires SCAG to consider open space as a factor in the allocation of shares of regional housing need to local governments. This is potentially helpful in information sharing, as well as in reinforcing local commitment to open space protection.